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OMCT
OPERATING THE SOS-TORTURE NETWORK

ORGANISATION MONDIALE CONTRE LA TORTURE
WORLD ORGANIZATION AGAINST TORTURE
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Case IDN/TMP 210999

The International Secretariat of OMCT requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in East Timor.

Brief description of the situation

The International Secretariat of OMCT has just been informed of further human rights situation in East and West Timor.

According to the East Timor Human Rights Center (ETHRC), a member of the OMCT network, at 8.a.m. of today September 21 1999, five East Timorese people were killed in Bacau and a further 3 were seriously wounded in attacks by Battalion 745 of the TNI. Battalion 745 has also burnt a large number of houses in the area. Sources have confirmed that the situation in Bacau is still volatile. It has been further informed of the killings and burning of houses by TNI forces, as they are moving from Viqueque, Lospalos and other parts of East Timor.

People in Bacau are in desperate need of medical aid, food and shelter.

In another report, acts of summary execution have been confirmed by the TNI and military-backed military of approximately 200 East Timorese people in Oecusse on September 8 1999. Seventy of the killings have been confirmed as having taken place in three locations in Oecusse, Oesilo, Letive and Pasabe. Houses were also burned. It has been reported that a large number of those killed were primary and secondary school teachers and government officials.

In addition, as of today, sources have confirmed that priests, nuns and students in seminaries are at grave risk of being killed. According to the ETHRC, it appears that there is a concerted effort to target the educated East Timorese for execution. In Kupang, there are 200 students studying in a Catholic college and it is believed that they and their families will be targeted.

Furthermore, religious leaders and local NGO's have complained to the provincial government of the apparent lack of willingness by police, army and NTT government to curb militia violence in West Timor.

Mrs. Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has called for the establishment of an international court. OMCT unreservedly supports that view and urges that such a court be given full jurisdiction, empowered to investigate and sanction all human rights violations and crimes against humanity committed by the Indonesian authorities in East and West Timor.

Actions requested

Please write to the Indonesian authorities urging them to :

i. take immediate measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of the general population, refugees, internally displaced persons, UN, international and local human rights and humanitarian aid agencies personnel;

ii. grant unconditional and unrestricted access to UN, international and local human rights monitors and humanitarian aid agencies to all areas of West and East Timor;

iii. immediately arrest and sanction all those responsible for human rights violations against East Timorese civilians in East and West Timor.

iv. ensure that people injured and tortured and the families of the persons killed and disappeared obtain adequate reparation;

v. the safe repatriation of all East Timorese wishing to leave West Timor and the rest of Indonesia .

vi. guarantee the effective respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with

international human rights standards.

Please write to your own President urging her/him to :

immediately intervene before the United Nations to establish an international court with full jurisdiction, empowered to investigate and sanction all human rights violations and crimes against humanity committed by the Indonesian authorities and militia in East and West Timor.

Addresses

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MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX/UDAYANA (includes East Timor), Major General Adam Damiri
Pangdam IX/Udayana Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali
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Geneva, 21 September 1999

Kindly inform us of any action undertaken quoting the code of this appeal in your reply